ABSTRACT

A slot machine comprises a plurality of mechanical or simulated reels. Each reel bears a plurality of discrete symbols and a continuous graphical element extending between adjacent ones of the discrete symbols such that the discrete symbols are unified by the graphical element. The discrete symbols are superimposed

5   over the graphical element. The reels are rotated and stopped to place a portion of each reel in visual association with a display area. A payout is determined based on the portion of each reel associated with the display area. In an alternative embodiment, the plurality of discrete symbols are replaced with discrete symbol positions, and a discrete symbol on each reel moves between adjacent ones of the

10   discrete symbol positions as the reel is rotated. A payout may be accumulated based on each discrete symbol position traversed by the discrete symbol.